THE WORLD I CREATE
Agami Kazama

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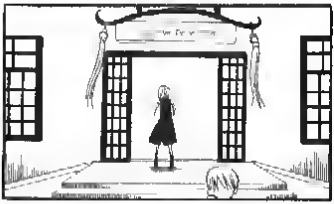
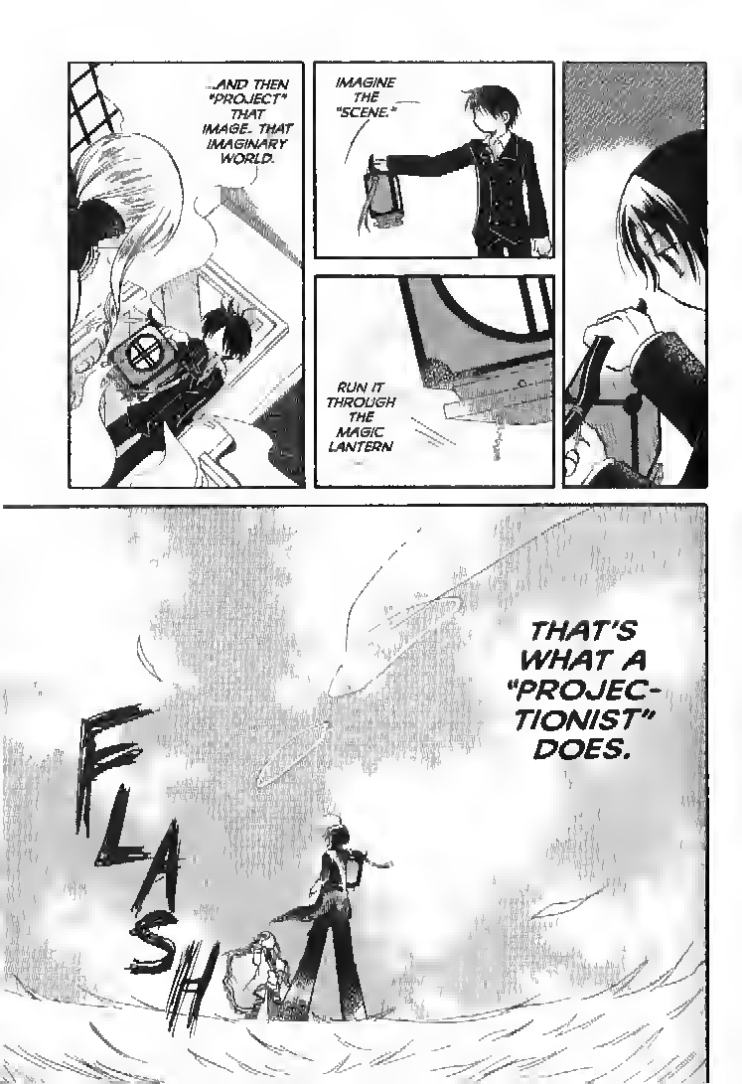
THE SKY THAT ENCHANTS YOU
キミに魅せる空
Naked Blue Sky

AND...
ALSO...



GO AHEAD, RI-CHAN
"THE SKY AND A GRASS-COVERED PLAIN"

FOR EXAMPLE, MAGICIANS...
STREET PERFORMERS ...
THERE ARE SEVERAL OCCUPA-TIONS THAT PROVIDE PEOPLE WITH DREAMS.


...AND THEN "PROJECT" THAT IMAGE. THAT IMAGINARY WORLD.
IMAGINE THE "SCENE."
RUN IT THROUGH THE MAGIC LANTERN
FLASH
THAT'S WHAT A "PROJECTIONIST" DOES.

FLASH
AAARGH! YOU ALMOST HAD IT! FOR THE FIRST FEW SECONDS, IT WAS SO BEAUTIFUL!
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS LET YOUR PROJECTIONS FALL APART AT THE END?!
KNUCKLEHEAD!
AND THAT WAS A PROJECTION CREATED BY A PROJECTIONIST.
NO, NO, NO!!

...BUT AT THIS RATE, YOU'LL JUST FLUNK OUT...
...RITSUKI NAKAHARA-KUN.
YOU FAIL AGAIN.
SIGH
HON-ESTLY!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? YOU NEED TO PASS THIS TEST TO ADVANCE TO THE SECOND YEAR...
...CAN BECOME PROJECTION-ISTS, A PROFESSION THAT EVERY-ONE DREAMS ABOUT.
ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE THE TALENT TO PROJECT THEIR IMAGINATIONS INTO REALITY...
YOU HAVE THAT ABILITY.

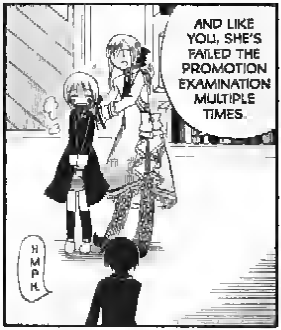
...DAD!
HEY! I DON'T WANT YOU USING ANY TERM THAT PINS DOWN MY GENDER!
I LOVE YOU BUT SOMETIMES I WANNA KILL YOU!!
AND IT'S A WASTE FOR YOU TO SQUANDER IT! SO PLEASE, TAKE YOUR STUDIES SERIOUSLY!
SQUEEZE
KNOCK IT OFF! THAT'S DISGUSTING..
A PROFESSIONAL PROJECTIONIST--
You mean, you're both genders?
AFTER ALL, I'M A PROFESSIONAL PROJECTIONIST? I WALK THE FINE LINE BETWEEN THE GENDERS SO AS NOT TO GIVE ANYONE ANY STRANGE PRECONCEPTIONS.
TONS OF SOCIAL SITUATIONS
TATSUKI'S SCHEDULE
TONS OF OFFERS
TONS OF SLANDERS
SNAKING LINE
TONS OF AUTOGRAPHS

...BUT...
O-DAD, ARE YOU ALLRIGHT? YOU LOOK LIKE DEATH WARMED UP...
I WAS REALLY WORRIED...
I'M OVER-JOYED!
WOBBL
...I ALSO COULDN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT HE WAS A FOOL.
Welcome!
I WAS FORCED TO ENTER THIS SCHOOL AGAINST MY WILL IN THE FIRST PLACE. SO FLUNKING OUT WOULD ACTUALLY BE A RELIEF!
OH, FIDDLE-STICKS!
ZZZ
NO WAY DO I WANNA END UP LIKE YOU.
I WANNA LIVE MORE LIKE A LOCUST
LIVE FOR 79 YEARS WHILE SLEEPING HAVE MY DAY AT 80 YEARS OLD THEN DIE
GIGGLE GIGGLE
YOU SAY THAT NOW. BUT JUST WAIT—

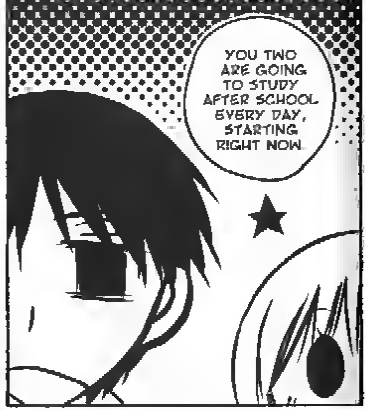
I BELIEVE...
...YOU CALLED FOR ME?
EXCUSE ME...
WORK

THIS IS YUZURU HATSUMI-CHAN SHE'S A FRESHMAN IN THE PROJECTION DEPARTMENT JUST LIKE YOU
?

SWAP
SO THERE YOU GO!!
THERE I GO WHAT?


AND LIKE YOU, SHE'S FAILED THE PROMOTION EXAMINATION MULTIPLE TIMES.
HMPH

WHAT? IF YOU TWO DON'T SHAPE UP YOU'LL BOTH BE DRUMMED OUT OF HERE
HUH?
BUT THROUGH MUTUAL ENCOURAGEMENT YOU'LL INSTILL THE WILL TO FIGHT IN EACH OTHER. IS THE IDEA.
THE EXAM CAN BE TAKEN THROUGH NEXT WEEK. BUT COME AND SEE ME TO TAKE IT ANYTIME YOU FEEL READY
UNTIL THEN, DO YOUR BEST BY WORKING TOGETHER


YOU TWO ARE GOING TO STUDY AFTER SCHOOL EVERY DAY, STARTING RIGHT NOW

TUG
IDIOTIC AS IF I COULD BE GUNG HO ABOUT THIS...
DOESN'T HE REALIZE I WON'T EVEN BOTHER TO SHOW UP?

COULD THIS BE...
...WHAT HE WAS AFTER?
FINDING ENTHUSIASM THROUGH COOPERATION...

BYE-BYE!
KACHA

?!
UM...I'M GLAD I'M NOT ALONE
I THOUGHT MAYBE I WAS A GONER. BUT WITH THE TWO OF US...

SENSE OF
AFFINITY
LET'S GIVE IT OUR ALL...
...AND PASS..
TOGETHER!

TRICKLE...

EXCRUCIATING AGONY
UM...
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A SLUMP THAT IS UNPRECEDENTED IN THE HISTORY OF PROJECTION ISTA.
REALLY? THEN I'LL GO FIRST.
WHICH OF US SHOULD GO FIRST? SHALL WE DECIDE BY ROCK-SCISSORS-PAPER?
GREAT...
NAH, YOU CAN GO, HATSUMI.
IT LOOKS LIKE WE CAN USE THIS CLASSROOM FOR THE WEEK.
LET'S TAKE TURNS PRACTICING OUR PROJECTIONS.

WHAT? SHE'S DOING IT NO PROBLEM. ISN'T SH--
F O O O
"SKY AND A GRASS-COVERED PLAIN."
THIS WAY, AT LEAST I'LL BE ABLE TO LOAF OFF FOR A WHILE.
HA HA
HA HA
HA
S W I S H
ONE MORE TIME!
IMAGINA-TION?! MORE LIKE EMBRACING THE FORCES OF DARKNESS
AH! NO GOOD. MY IMAGINA TION RAN AWAY WITH ME AGAIN

HEY...
I'LL TRY IT ONE MORE TIME
AHHH, IT'S DARK ALREADY
I FEEL SICK!!
From the crazy stuff
SAW HER PROJECTIONS ABOUT 50 TIMES
YES?
YOU REALLY WANNA BE A PROJECTIONIST THAT BAD?
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE DESPERATE...
YOU GET IT?
I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE MY OLD MAN BEING WHAT HE IS...
AND IT ISN'T WORTH IT
SURE, YOU GET FAME AND FORTUNE...
...BUT YOUR LIFE IS OVER
UM...
CAN I SIT NEXT TO YOU?

FLOWERS
SUNLIGHT FILTERING THROUGH THE TREES
SHE LET ME EXPERIENCE EVEN THE SMELLS AND TEMPERATURE OF BEING OUTSIDE.
A LONG TIME AGO I WAS A LOT SHYER THAN I AM NOW
SO MUCH THAT I WOULDN'T EVEN GO OUTSIDE TO PLAY
I DIDN'T REALLY MIND IT
BUT MY GRANDMOTHER, WHO WAS A PROJECTIONIST...
...SHOWED" ME ALL KINDS OF THINGS THAT WERE OUTSIDE
I HAD SO MUCH FUN IN THE VIRTUAL REALITY THAT SHE CREATED...
...THAT IT MADE ME GO OUT INTO THE REAL OUTDOORS.
BUT I WANT TO SHOW MY GRANDMOTHER MY PROJECTIONS.
SURE I M STILL TERRIFIED
...TO BE IN FRONT OF PEOPLE...

I'M A LITTLE EMBARRASSED TO SAY THAT
...ESPECIALLY WHEN MY PROJECTIONS ARE STILL SO POOR...

...BUT I'M GONNA TRY MY BEST!

"I WANT TO SHOW MY GRANDMOTHER MY PROJECTIONS..."

I WANNA SEE YOUR PROJECTIONS TOO NAKAHARA KUN
SO SHOW ME..
...SOMETIME, OKAY?

"I WANT TO SHOW."
IF SHE CAN LEARN TO REIN IN HER GALLOPING IMAGINATION
.. WHAT KIND OF WORLD WILL SHE SHOW?
DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO THOUGHT OF IT LIKE THAT
A PROFESSION THAT CATERS TO THE MASSES...
..BUT SHE ONLY WANTS TO PERFORM FOR HER FAMILY
I SURE NEVER THOUGHT OF IT LIKE THAT
...WHAT WOULD...
...IT BE LIKE?
CHAK
IF I HAD,
..SOMEONE LIKE THAT..

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
FOOO
FOOOOO...

HEY, WAS SHE JUST IN MY IMAGE-?
SWISH
AAAAH!
WHY?! I HEARD IT WAS HARD TO MAKE HUMAN PROJECTIONS
Since you have to remember what a person looks like down to the last detail
AND I'VE BARELY JUST MET HER
BLUSH
ON ME?
DID SHE MAKE THAT MUCH OF AN IMPRESSION
ARE YOU STILL IN A SLUMP, NAKAHARA KUN?

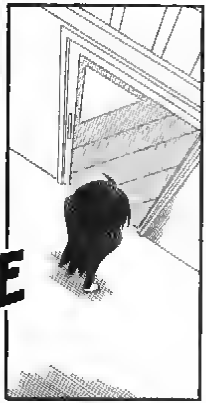
THEN I'LL GO!
I SEE..
UH... A LITTLE...
CAN'T DO IT IN FRONT OF HER...
AFTER I GO HOME, I'LL TRY TO PRACTICE LEAVING HER OUT OF IT CONSCIOUSLY
I WOULDN'T MIND SHOWING HER IF SHE WEREN'T PART OF THE PROJECTION...
Cute projections today!~
She's still there

WOW THE SUNSET...
I'LL TAKE A LOOK, TOO.
WHAT COLOR'S THE REAL SKY AGAIN?
HMM..
BUT I STILL NEED TO WORK ON MY SKIES IT ALWAYS LOOKS LIKE A CHILD PAINTED THEM.
SWIRL
YOU'RE GETTIN' A LOT BETTER AT MAKING THE PRAIRIE
THE SUN GOES DOWN.
...TURNING THE SKY A FIERY ORANGE...
...AS WELL AS THE DEEP AZURE OF APPROACHING NIGHT...
IT'S BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?

GRADATIONS?!
EH?
I WAS JUST THINKING HOW THE COLOR CHANGES AS IT APPROACHES THE HORIZON
OH, YEAH! WHAT A WONDERFUL TRANSITION!
.. WHAT AM I SAYING..?
"WHAT A WONDERFUL TRANSITION!"
I'M NOT THE KIND OF GUY..
WHO NOTICES THOSE KINDS OF THINGS

I GUESS "CHANGE" ...ISN'T SO BAD.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL..

YOU CALLED?
RATTLE



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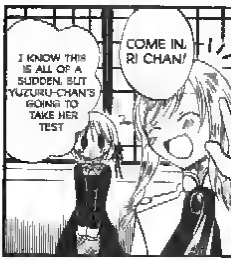
WATCH THIS, NAKAHARA-KUN.
I...
WANT YOU
TO WATCH CLOSELY!
HUH?


COME IN, RI CHAN!
I KNOW THIS IS ALL OF A SUDDEN, BUT YUZURU-CHAN'S GOING TO TAKE HER TEST

SO WHY SUMMON ME?
I ASKED HIM TO

FLASH...
"THE SKY...
...AND A GRASS COVERED PLAIN"
Fooo
WOW...
IT'S GOR-GEOUS.
UNIFORM BLUE SKY.
NO GREEN.
NO PAINT LIKE WILD STREAKS.
VERY NICE YUZURU-CHAN.

FWOOO
AH...
THE SUN WENT DOWN...
NOW THE SKY IS CLAD IN THE DARKNESS OF NIGHT...
FOOD!!

THAT WAS...
THE SKY WE SAW LAST NIGHT, RIGHT?
IT WAS SO CLEAR FELT SO REAL...
I wonder if I can sleep too much
HUFF:
THUD
...INCREDIBLE.
GASP
N-NAKAHARA-KUN!
D-DID YOU SEE IT? DID YOU SEE MY PROJECTION?!
AH... YEAH.
IT WAS AMAZING HATSUMI
BEAUTI...
TH--

YOU PASS!!

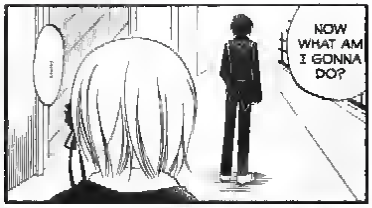
GAZE
PASS.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT, RI-CHAN

THAT WAS BRILLIANT, YUZURU-CHAN!!
CHANGING THE IMAGE LIKE THAT IS AN ASSIGN-MENT GIVEN TO SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS DURING THEIR FINAL TERM!!
SWISH

FROM TODAY, YOU'LL BE PRACTICING ON YOUR OWN.
SO REALLY DIG IN!

"FROM TODAY, YOU'LL BE PRACTICING ON YOUR OWN..."
THAT'S RIGHT.
I FORGOT ABOUT THAT.
NAKAHARA-KUN!
DID I DO A FAITHFUL RECREATION OF LAST NIGHT'S SKY?
EH...? OH.
YEAH, YEAH. IT LOOKED JUST LIKE IT
REALLY?
"YOU'LL BE PRACTICING ON YOUR OWN..."
GOOD!
OUR TIME..
...TOGETHER IS FINISHED...
BUT, Y'KNOW...
...I FOUND IT FIRST DIDN'T I?
WASN'T IT KINDA...
...SNEAKY OF YOU TO DO THAT?
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE USED SOMETHING I DISCOVERED

SWISH
AH! I DIDN'T MEAN...
NO...


NOW WHAT AM I GONNA DO?

I'M SORRY...
GASP

SHOOT! DID I UPSET HER?
NO...
REALLY, I WAS JUST...
FRET
FRET
FRET
IT'S ALL RIGHT

YOU'RE RIGHT, NAKAHARA-KUN.
I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED...
I'M SORRY...

COME ON. IT'S GETTING LATE. LET'S GO HOME.
AH...
YEAH.
FLASH
NEXT TIME, I'LL BE SURE TO THINK OF SOMETHING MYSELF.
SO...
..WATCH ME THEN!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! I HAVE TO RETURN A BOOK TO THE LIBRARY.
SHE SMILED
WHEW
HEY!
HATSU..
ISN'T THE LIBRARY ALREADY CLOSED?
SORRY! GO ON AHEAD WITHOUT ME! IT'S LATE ENOUGH AS IT IS.

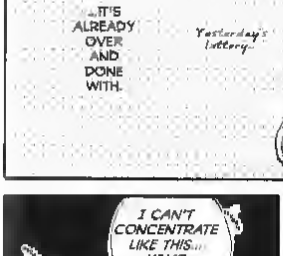
"YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE USED SOMETHING I DISCOVERED."
"WASN'T IT KINDA SNEAKY OF YOU TO DO THAT?"
"...I'M SORRY."

AH!
GOOD MORNING, NAGAHARA-KUN.
COLD AGAIN TODAY, HUH?
HATSUMI-
HUH?
I M- UH, SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY...
I DIDN'T MEAN WHAT I SAID I WAS JUST VENTING MY OWN FRUSTRATIONS
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. WHAT YOU SAID WAS TRUE.

YEAH.

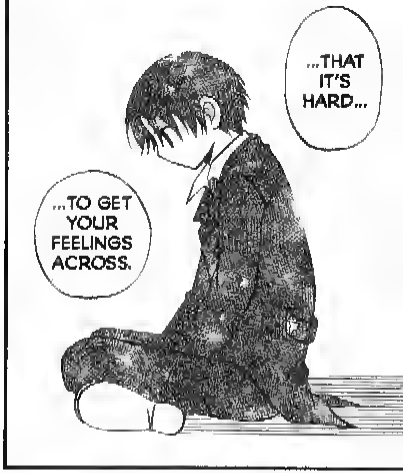
...SO I HOPE YOU DO, TOO!
ANYWAY, I'M GONNA DO MY BEST...
PUMP

...IT'S ALREADY OVER AND DONE WITH.
Yesterday's lottery...
And listen to this!
I SEE...
IN HER MIND...


I CAN'T CONCENTRATE LIKE THIS... WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
MY MIND'S PROBABLY MUDDLED FROM THE "SLEEP 20 YEARS BEFORE LIVING" ATTITUDE...

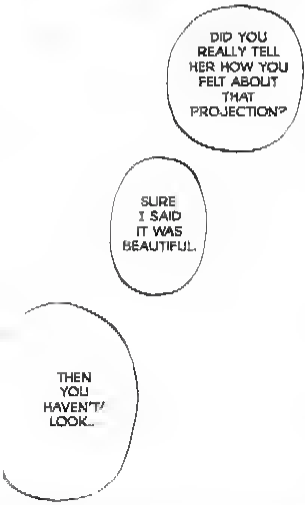
THAT LEAVES A BAD AFTERTASTE!!
ALONE...

EXCUSE ME, RI-CHAN!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO TELL HER SHE WAS "SNEAKY"...
OR NOT TO USE MY "DISCOVERY"...
RIPPLE
I DON'T WANNA SEE ANY PROJECTIONS RIGHT NOW. IT JUST MAKES ME MORE DEPRESSED
FWOO
I GO TO THE TROUBLE OF PROJECTING A RELAXING SCENE AND WHAT DO YOU DO?!
REBELLING BY IGNORING
YOUR LAST CHANCE TO TAKE THE TEST IS TOMORROW...
AND YOU'RE NOT PRACTICING?! WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WING IT?!
ALOHA
.....
I WAS JUST THINKING...
NOTHING!
WHAT HAP-PENED?!


...THAT IT'S HARD...
...TO GET YOUR FEELINGS ACROSS.

NO!
THIS IS ABOUT YUZURU CHAN, ISN'T IT?
N-NOT EXACTLY...
DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT?
OH, dear!

WELL I DON'T KNOW ALL THE WHYS AND WHEREFORES, BUT I HAVE A FEELING YOU'RE BOTH IN THE SAME BOAT
HAH?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


DID YOU REALLY TELL HER HOW YOU FELT ABOUT THAT PROJECTION?
SURE I SAID IT WAS BEAUTIFUL.
THEN YOU HAVEN'T/ LOOK...

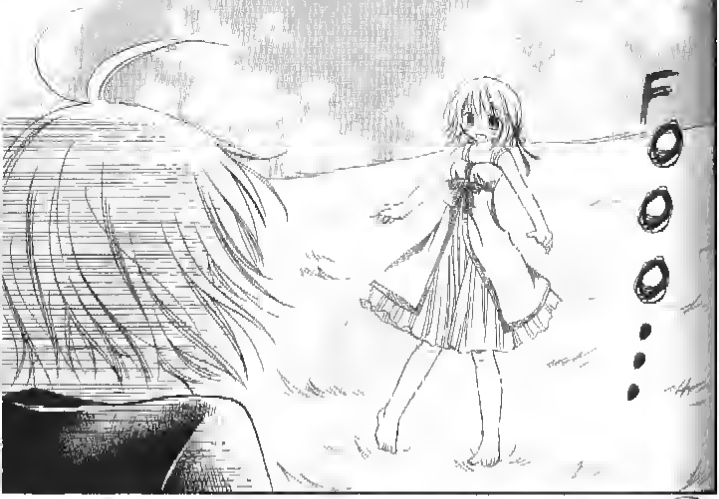
...SHE MADE IT FOR YOU.
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT...
REMEMBER HOW SHE KEPT TELLING YOU TO "WATCH"? THERE'S NO DOUBT!
..EH?
.. BECAUSE I PRAISED IT THAT NIGHT?!
.....
WANT TO SHOW ME THAT SKY ONE MORE TIME
DID SHE...
"I WANT YOU TO WATCH CLOSELY!"
"DID YOU SEE IT? DID YOU SEE MY PROJEC-TION?!"

HATSUMI!!
NAKAHARA-KUN
EH?
WAAA
GRAB
WHAT'S WRONG?
C'MERE.
...FOR A SECOND
?!
RI-CHAN!!
DASH

WATCH CLOSELY.
HATSUMI...
I...
HATSUMI
OOOH...
I'M DIZZY...
I'M GONNA SHOW YOU...
MY PROJEC-TION

FWOOO...

RU
STLE
Like the real thing!!
TH—
THIS IS...
It's like it goes on forever! And it's so detailed!
AWESOME, NAKAHARA-KUN!
VERY EXCITED
JUST AWE—
RUSTLE


FOOO...

I SAID YOU WERE "SNEAKY" OUT OF ENVY
...THAT PROJECTION YOU MADE WAS INCREDIBLE
I TOLD YOU NOT TO "USE WHAT I FOUND" BECAUSE I WAS LONELY

EH?
ME?
I ACTUALLY THOUGHT...

HOW MUCH...
HOW MUCH I'M CHARMED BY YOU...
...JUST HOW MUCH I'VE CHANGED.
I WANT TO COMMUNICATE!
LIKE YOU SHOWED ME...
...YOUR EXISTENCE MEANS TO ME...

TH-
TH THAT'S ...
UM
THAT'S IT...
I DIDN'T GET MY MESSAGE ACROSS!!
H-HATSUMI THAT WASN'T THE POINT
YOU'RE SURE TO PASS THE TEST!
THAT'S GREAT! NOW WE'LL BE ABLE TO GO TO SECOND-YEAR TOGETHER.
THAT WAS MAGNIFICENT, NAKAHARA-KUN!
YOU CAN PROJECT PEOPLE!!
GONG
LET'S KEEP TRYING...
-TO DO OUR BEST!

GRIN
GRIN
AH, WELL...
IT'S HARD TO GET FEELINGS ACROSS...
SOUNDS GOOD.
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THIS SKY IS GONNA GO ON FOR A WHILE.

ラストプラトニックブルー

LAST PLATONIC BLUE

AT THIS SCHOOL, STUDENTS WHO ARE STUDYING TO BE "PROJECTIONISTS" CAN
WELL...
WHAT IF YOU COULD TAKE ANY IMAGE IN YOUR HEAD AND GIVE IT FORM..?
READY, AKITSU?!
I IMAGINE..
"SUNSET AT THE BEACH"!
FLASH

FOO
FLASH
YOU SAW THAT, DIDN'T YOU? AN EXPENSIVE-LOOKING JAR FLOATING RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE SUN!
GASP
HEY, AKITSU!
KINOTO AKITSU-KUN!
AH! UM...
THIS MEANS...
...THE LANTERN YOU'RE USING ISN'T RIGHT FOR YOU.

HAHAHA... ACTUALLY, I'VE BEEN SO BUSY WORKING ON MY GRADUATION PROJECT...
IF YOU DON'T HAVE GOOD RAPPORT WITH YOUR LANTERN, IMAGES FROM PREVIOUS PROJECTIONS WILL TEND TO POP UP, RIGHT?
THE PREVIOUS IMAGE IS STILL IN THERE.
HAVE YOU BEEN MAINTAINING THE LANTERN...?
H...?
I KNOW THAT BUT THE LANTERNS I'M COMPATIBLE WITH ARE WAY EXPENSIVE
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE HERE FOR, THOUGH, RIGHT?
IMAGE.
CLEAR!
LANTERN MAINTE-NANCE...
THIS GUY
IS A SOFT YELLOW COLOR
HIS AURA IS WARM, LIKE A SUNBEAM

FOOO...
"THE COLOR OF THE SUN"...
...SETTING THE DEVICE ACCLIMATED TO THE OWNER'S AURA
AND THEN
I IMAGINE
"...INVOLVES PROJECTING A TRANSPARENT BACKGROUND.
DELETING ALL OF...
CLEAR
CLEAR
THE REMAINING IMAGES
POP
POP
Hard Projectionists seem to value... Shameless through the nose
I BET THERE ARE HARDLY ANY PROJECTIONISTS LIKE YOU OUT THERE
YOU'RE AN ODD ONE, AKITSU!
INTO AURAS AND "READING" LANTERNS RATHER THAN PRODUCING SOMETHING OF YOUR OWN?
FOO
IT'S EASIER TO BUILD RAPPORT WITH A LANTERN WHEN IT'S DYED THE COLOR OF YOUR AURA.
THANKS, AKITSU! I'LL KEEP THIS ONE FOR A WHILE!"
WHY ARE YOU TALKING LIKE YOU'RE GIVING A LECTURE?
ANYWAY, THANKS AGAIN!
BUT THAT'S WHY EVERYBODY COMES TO YOU WHEN THEIR LANTERNS NEED MAINTENANCE!
ROARO

I LIKE THE STILLNESS WHEN I CLEAR SCENERY...
THE MOMENT WHEN I DYE A LANTERN SOMEBODY'S COLOR.
CHA
THAT'S RIGHT. I LOVE DOING TUNE-UPS ON THE MAGIC LANTERNS.
HE FINALLY LEFT...
TALKING TO PEOPLE MAKES ME TIRED.
THAT'S WHY I DON'T HAVE EVEN AN INKLING OF DESIRE FOR SOMEONE TO "UNDERSTAND" ME.
VARIOUS AURAS MIX WHEN YOU DO THAT KIND OF STUFF. THE COLORS GET MUDDIED.
SHOWING SOMEBODY MY PROJECTIONS, TALKING TO PEOPLE
IF THAT MAKES ME ODD, SO BE IT.
CHAK
LET'S SEE... TODAY IS YAMAZAKI-SENSEI'S...
RATTLE... RATTLE...
NOW I CAN TAKE MY TIME DOING MAINTENANCE
I DON'T HAVE ANY INTEREST IN PEOPLE OR PROJECTIONISTS.
CLASS IS STARTING
DO DO DING

RATTLE...
NOBODY SAW ME, DID THEY?
PHEW! CLOSE ONE...
I SHOULD ASK YOU THAT...
WHO'RE YOU?
MM?
ARE YOU THAT FRESHMAN-- AKITSU, WHO EVERYBODY: TEACHERS INCLUDED USES TO GET THE GLITCHES OUT OF THEIR LANTERNS?
I AM "AKITSU THE USED" YES
TACIT APPROVAL?!
ACTUALLY I PERFORM MAINTENANCE WORK ON THE MAGIC LANTERNS HERE. IT'S UNOFFICIAL, BUT I HAVE TACIT APPROVAL..
ARE YOU DITCHING CLASS TOO?
YOU'RE NOT A SECOND YEAR STUDENT I HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR FACE BEFORE-- FRESHMAN?

...GO BUY A DRINK.
THAT'S AN ORDER FROM AN UPPER-CLASSMAN.

PERFECT THEN THE TEACHER PROBABLY WON'T BARGE IN HERE. I THINK I LL CHILL OUT HERE A WHILE WITH YOU HANDYMAN
WHATEVER

NOW, TO WORK
BUT FIRST, SINCE I CAN T SLIP OUT WITHOUT GETTING CAUGHT.

GULP GULP GULP
EXCUSE ME?! WHY ARE YOU DRINKING IT?

I GOT IT..
"HANDYMAN" OKAY I'M NOT A ROPER
GOOD JOB. HERE, TOSS IT.

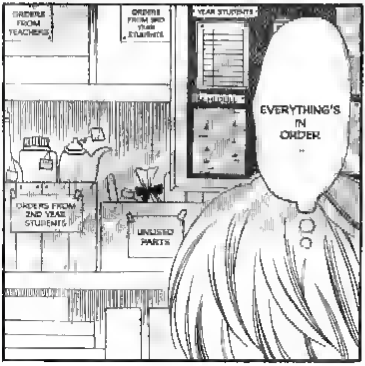
TONE
NEW PRODUCTS!!

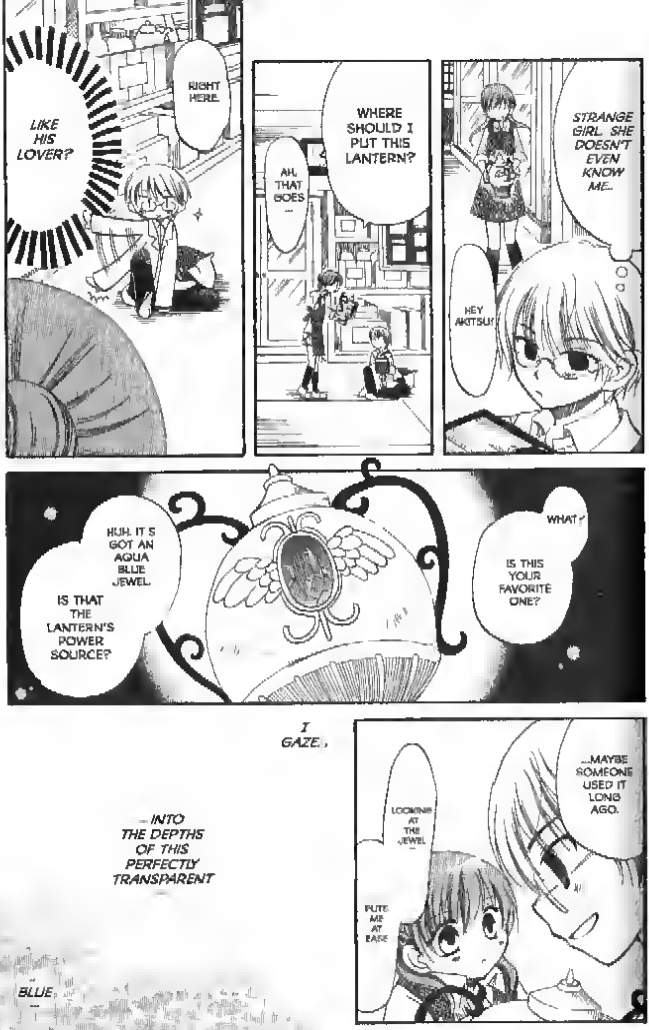
NEVER MIND!! I'M GONNA READ A BOOK, SO DON'T TALK TO ME!!
SUITS ME. NOW I CAN GET SOME WORK DONE.
THAT'S WHAT DRINKS ARE FOR...
THAT WAS FOR ME! I MEANT FOR YOU TO BUY ME A DRINK! WHY WOULD I SAY IT'S AN "ORDER FROM AN UPPERCLASSMAN" IF I WANTED YOU TO BUY YOURSELF A BEVERAGE?! IDIOT!!
IDIOT!!
WHY DO I HAVE TO EXPLAIN SOMETHING SO PATENTLY OBVIOUS?!
CLANK CLANK CLANK CLANK
OOF!
CLANK CLANK CLANK
AH... THERE WE GO
CLNK CLNK CLNK
HUH? WHERE'S THE MEMO?
WHUMP
UWAAA! IT'S LIKE AN AVALANCHE!
SWISH
NOT TO BEAT YOU OVER THE HEAD WITH! NOW JUST GET ONE OUT!
ALL RIGHT- FINE! GET ME A BROOM!
A BROOM...
FOR SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T WANT TO TALK, SHE SURE IS DOING AN AWFUL LOT OF IT...
SHUT UP!! I CAN'T CONCENTRATE! KEEP THIS PLACE CLEAN AND YOU WON'T HAVE TO RUMMAGE AROUND LIKE THAT!!

THE NAME IS SOYOKA KAWANAMI. I'M SECOND-YEAR.
GOOD TO MEET YOU.

I'VE GOT FREE TIME, SO I'LL CLEAN UP FOR YOU.
THIS PLACE IS TOO MESSY.

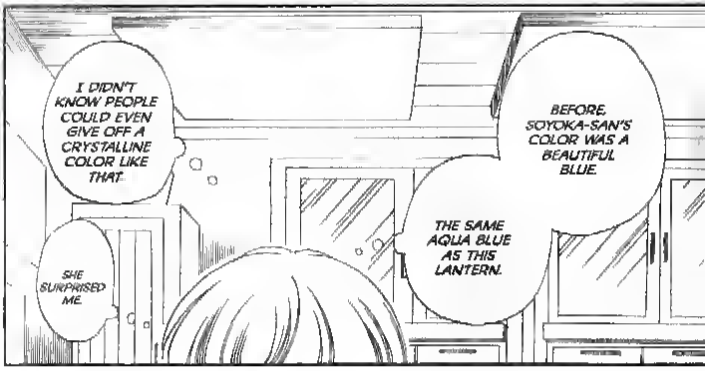
YOU'RE JUST ASKING TO BE HIT AREN'T YOU?
THANK YOU, NAMIKAWA LIBRARY CLASSMAN.


ORDERS FROM TEACHERS
ORDERS FROM 3RD YEAR STUDENTS
YEAR STUDENTS
EVERYTHING'S IN ORDER.
ORDERS FROM 2ND YEAR STUDENTS
UNUSED PARTS


LIKE HIS LOVER?
RIGHT HERE.
WHERE SHOULD I PUT THIS LANTERN?
AH, THAT GOES—
STRANGE GIRL. SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ME...
HEY AKITSU!
IS THAT THE LANTERN'S POWER SOURCE?
HUH. IT'S GOT AN AQUA BLUE JEWEL.
IS THIS YOUR FAVORITE ONE?
WHAT?
I GAZE...
...INTO THE DEPTHS OF THIS PERFECTLY TRANSPARENT
BLUE...
LOOKING AT THE JEWEL—
...MAYBE SOMEONE USED IT LONG AGO.
PUTS ME AT EASE

IT MAKES ME FEEL RELAXED, TOO..
WHEN I TALK TO SOMEONE, THE COLORS OF OUR AURAS MINGLE AND GET MUDDIED..
IT REMINDS ME OF THE SILENT NOTHINGNESS OF MY PROJECTIONS...
HUH. SO YOU DO LIKE THAT ONE.
BUT Hmmm
...I THINK I GET IT.
YOU LOOK HAPPY WITH THAT LANTERN RIGHT NEXT TO YOU!
WHAT?! WAS I THINKING OUT LOUD..?

?!
THAD...
BEAUTIFUL COLOR
HAH? EH? LIKE IT...?
DO YOU LIKE THIS TOO SOYOKA SAN?
WHAT?
NOT ESPECIALLY!
I WAS JUST MAKING CONVERSATION! NO NEED TO READ ANYTHING INTO IT!
NOW GET BACK TO WORK OR YOU'LL BE BEHIND SCHEDULE!
Chiaki
ACTUALLY I...
ANYWAY
AKITSU
...ARE YOU OKAY WITH...
...JUST PROJECTING
...YOU KNOW
LIKE THAT?


I DIDN'T KNOW PEOPLE COULD EVEN GIVE OFF A CRYSTALLINE COLOR LIKE THAT.
BEFORE, SOYOKA-SAN'S COLOR WAS A BEAUTIFUL BLUE.
SHE SURPRISED ME.
THE SAME AQUA BLUE AS THIS LANTERN.

I WANT TO SEE IT ONE MORE TIME...

SWISH
BACK ON TRACK WITH MY WORK-LOAD TODAY...
.....
I IMAGINE...
MOSS GREEN.
Fooo...
KAY.
WHAT? THAT'S ANNOYING.
SHAKE SHAKE
WHY? HOW CAN I SEE HER PURE COLOR AGAIN?
EVER SINCE THAT DAY, SOYOKA-SAN'S COLOR HAS BEEN CLOUDY...
E-EXCUSE ME AKITSU-KUN, ARE YOU IN?
ZOK ZOK

YUZURU!
AH, SURE

YUZURU HATSUMI IS A FRIEND OF MINE.
Don't pretend!
OH, SOYOKA-CHAN!

MY LANTERN
NEEDS MAINTENANCE, IF YOU'RE NOT TOO BUSY

AT THIS RATE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO BE SENIORS TOGETHER!
WELL YOU STILL HAVEN'T FOUND YOUR OWN LANTERN...

SO HERE'S WHERE YOU'VE BEEN HIDING OUT, SOYOKA-CHAN!
OH, I'LL BE BACK EVENTUALLY
IT'S BEEN LONELY WITHOUT YOU IN CLASS RECENTLY
SOYOKA-SAN'S COLOR HAS GONE HAZY

WHA--?!
YOU'RE KEEPING YOUR BOYFRIEND WAITING AREN'T YOU? YOU BETTER GET GOING
R-RITSUKI-KUN ISN'T MY BOYFRIEND YET!! I MEAN...
YUZURU!
EH--?
Waaa!

CERTAINLY THE MOST IMPORTANT THING!
TO DO IN SECOND YEAR IS FIND A MAGIC LANTERN TO CALL YOUR OWN. ONE THAT YOU'RE COMPATIBLE WITH, AND ESTABLISH A RAPPORT WITH IT...

TA TA TA TA TA
PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHEN THE LANTERN'S READY!!
Aieee!
Whew...

WELL, IT TAKES TIME TO FORM A RAPPORT
SO YOU'D REALLY BETTER FIND YOURS SOON.
YEAH, YEAH. I'VE STILL GOT TIME WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

GRAB
LOOK!
I INTIMIDATED YOU INTO LETTING ME STAY HERE!
I'M JUST HIDING OUT! SO DON'T LOOK FOR ANY DEEPER MEANING THAN THAT, 'CAUSE THERE ISN'T ANY!!
SHALL I HELP YOU? I KNOW YOUR COLOR..
I WANT TO SEE THAT BLUE AGAIN! ANYWAY..
NO THANKS YOU'VE GOT NO REASON TO HELP ME
NOW THIS CONVERSATION'S OVER!!
BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS HELPING ME BY CLEANING UP HERE
RRR
RATTLE
RATTLE
BUMP
YOU...
HEY...
THE BOXES! YOU'RE KNOCKING OVER THE BOXES!!
RATTLE
BUT SHE REALLY IS HELPFUL..
...AND THE COLOR OF SOYOKA SAN'S AURA IS BEAUTIFUL..
ER
HOW CAN I EXPLAIN THAT TO HER? UM..
NOW THE SUBJECT IS CLOSED!
GOT IT? THAT'S AN UPPERCLASSMAN ORDER!!

TO PUT IT SIMPLY..
I DON'T NEED 'EM ANY MORE
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT!!
ENOUGH! YOU'VE GOT LANTERNS FALLING AROUND YOUR EARS!!
RATTLE
CRASH
CRASH
REALLY HAVE BEEN A BIG HELP..
NEITHER CLASSES NOR A LANTERN...
WHEN I FIRST ENTERED THIS SCHOOL..
MY PROJECTING TALENT WAS ALREADY AT THE LEVEL OF EVEN THE TOP SENIORS HERE
I WAS OFTEN CALLED A GENIUS..
ACTUALLY SOYOKA KAWANAMI
IS A LITTLE FAMOUS.

I MAY ONLY HAVE ONE MORE PROJECTION LEFT IN ME...
I LIKE SHOWING PEOPLE MY PROJECTIONS...
...SO BEING GOOD AT IT WAS ENOUGH FOR ME TO DECIDE TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL PROJECTIONIST.
I DON'T THINK I'D EVER BEEN HAPPIER.
BUT MAYBE I WAS SO HAPPY THAT I DID TOO MANY PROJECTIONS...
BECAUSE WHEN I WENT ON TO SECOND-YEAR, MY ABILITY SUDDENLY WEAKENED
I THINK I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TRANSFER...
GUH...
...BUT I'M CUNNING FAST TO MY LAST UNPROJECTED PROJECTION.
UESS I'M UCTANT TO GO OF THE NLY THING THAT'S EEPING ME OTHERED TO ES "WORLD".
I MAY ONLY HAVE ONE MORE PROJECTION...
THIS SCHOOL HAS A GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM TOO, RIGHT?
I HEAR STUDENTS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR POWER TRANSFER TO THAT PROGRAM.
IS THERE A NAME FOR IT WHEN YOUR POWER JUST DRIES UP? I DON'T KNOW...
BUT I'M IN TOUCH WITH MY SENSES... AND THEY'RE GIVING ME THE HINT THAT THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.

AND AT THAT MOMENT, I SAW IT AS THE COLOR OF A TEAR

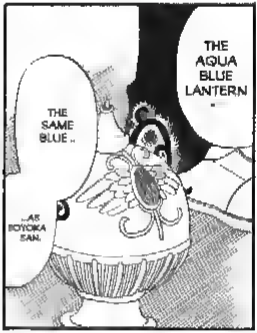
SOYOKA-SAN'S BLUE WAS MUDDY AND HAZY.

MAKES ME SAD
CHAK...

FOR SOME REASON, SOYOKA-SAN BEING SAD...
IS THERE SOMETHING THAT I CAN DO?

Well I'm going home...

...TO DRAIN IT OUT?
WOULD EVEN A MEAGER AMOUNT OF POWER BE ABLE...
...A REMARKABLE IMAGE WAS PUT IN HERE?
WHAT IF...
.....


...AS SOYOKA SAN.
THE SAME BLUE..
THE AQUA BLUE LANTERN

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING TOO MANY "WORK ORDERS" LATELY
NO.
I'VE BEEN BUSY WITH THIS...
AKITSU
WORKING ON THE AQUA BLUE MAGIC LANTERN?
UH...
I HAVE MY REASONS...
WHY, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
KA-CHA
HELP US, AKITSU!
WITH THIS, SOYOKA-SAN SHOULD BE ABLE TO STAY PUT.
I THINK MY HYPOTHESIS IS SOUND
JUST A LITTLE LONGER...
WHAT DO YOU LOOK SO HAPPY ABOUT?
I'LL DO MY BEST!
NOD
NOD

JUST HEAR US OUT!
SENIORS
WHEN WE WERE 2ND-YEAR STUDENTS WE PASSED WITH LANTERNS WE WEREN'T ESPECIALLY CLOSE TO BUT NOW THAT WE'VE GOTTA DO A GRADUATION PROJECT WE'RE IN A JAM!
WE MAY NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO GRADUATE!
SO WE WANT YOU TO PICK A MACHINE THAT'LL THROW OUT PROJECTIONS WITH NO FUSS, NO MUSS!
UH ..
THAT'S REALLY SOMETHING YOU'LL HAVE TO DO YOURSELF—
!!
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T LET YOU HAVE THAT ONE!
WHY? WHOSE IS IT?
IT DOESN'T HAVE A MASTER PER SE, BUT...
GOOD! THEN WE'LL CLAIM IT AS OURS!
THIS! THIS IS THE ONE!!
SWISH
!!
I WANT TO GIVE IT TO SOYOKA SAN...
BE A SPORT, AKITSU!
FRU

LEARN SOME MANNERS!
WHUD
JEEZ! WHAT HIT ME?!
AH! YOU!
GAR
TH-THANK YOU
HERE AKITSU
YOU WERE LAZY FOR TWO YEARS AND NOW YOU BETTER MAN UP IF YOU WANNA GRADUATE!
SPIN
SPIN
SOYOKA KAWANAMI!
FORMER GIRL GENIUS!
HAH?! DON'T GROUP ME TOGETHER WITH YOU! I'M—
I KNOW I KNOW! YOU'RE NOT LIKE US! 'CAUSE WE AT LEAST GOT OUR POWER!!
I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN CUTTIN' CLASS LIKE US EVER SINCE YOU LOST YOUR ABILITY. RUMORS ARE GOIN' AROUND Y KNOW.

IT'S LIKE THEY SAY, GENIUSES FALL FAST!
YOU CAN'T EVEN DO A GRADUATION PROJECT! YOU GOT NO BUSINESS BEING HERE!
YEAH, POWERLESS, AVERAGE GIRL! YOU BELONG IN THE "NORM" CLASSROOM!
あはは
AHA.HAHAHAHA
...
"I'M EMBARRASSED ...THAT I LOST MY ABILITY..."
HEY—
OH YEAH?
WANNA TEST ME? SEE IF I REALLY LOST MY ABILITY?
HAH?
AKITSU
...SOYOKA-SAN?
TAKE THIS OUT OF HERE I'LL GET THESE GUYS OUT OF YOUR WAY...

I CAN DO SOMETHING
IT'S NOT YOUR STYLE
IT'S OKAY
EH?
BUT...
"...ONLY HAVE ONE MORE PROJECTION IN ME."
BY DISTRACTING THEM WITH SOME SCARY KIND OF PROJECTION.
IN THE MEANTIME, YOU CALL A TEACHER OVER AND WE'LL GET THIS STRAIGHTENED OUT SOMEHOW OR OTHER.
GOT IT? THAT'S AN UPPERCLASS MAN ORDER.
CHAK
THAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU.
ISN'T IT?
SWISH
IMPORTANT

WHAT ABOUT SOYOKA-SAN'S "LAST TIME"? ISN'T THAT IMPORTANT?!
AND SHE'S GOING TO...
...USE IT UP OVER THIS?!

SMASH
TINKLE

YOU CAN HAVE IT
JUST PLEASE LEAVE
AH... HEY THAN..
IT'S NOT ALL IN ONE PIECE NOW
... BUT THIS STONE WAS THE POWER SOURCE OF THAT LANTERN
IF YOU ATTACH IT TO ANOTHER MAGIC LANTERN
IT SHOULD STILL WORK
HERE
AKITSU ...
KRISH...
AKITSU ...
TA TA TA TA TA
YIKES! THAT KID'S PSYCHO!
LEAVE ...
...NOW!
WHY?
YOU WERE ABOUT TO PROJECT...
AND I DIDN'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN SO I DID THE FIRST THING THAT CAME TO MIND

I-I'M SORRY. IT'S MY FAULT...
NO.
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
THE FIRST THING
AAAAH! AKITSU!
THAT LANTERN
WAS YOURS, SOYOKA-SAN.
EH?
I WANTED TO BE ABLE TO SEE...
THAT SMILING AQUA BLUE FACE AGAIN...
SO I THOUGHT IF I COULD INSTILL IT WITH A STRONG ENOUGH IMAGE...
YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO USE IT.
AND THUS, STAY ON HERE
WHEN YOU FIRST FOUND IT..
..YOUR AURA WAS THE SAME COLOR AS THE LANTERN
THIS CRYSTAL LINE AQUA BLUE-

...BUT I WANT YOU TO BE PROUD OF YOURSELF.
IT'S BROKEN NOW...
SOYOKA-SAN...
...YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO BE EMBAR-RASSED ABOUT.
SNIFF...

SOYOKA-SAN...?
SQUEEZE
NOK
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
I IMAGINE...
FLOWERS.

AKITSU...
I'M GIVING YOU..
...MY LAST ONE.

THANK YOU.
MMM
I JUST WANT TO BE TOGETHER
I'M GOING, SO STAY HERE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M NOT A CHILD! I'LL BE FINE.
WANT ME TO GO WITH YOU? I CAN DO MAINTENANCE WORK ANYWHERE.
ALL RIGHT I'M SIGNED UP FOR REGULAR TRACK.

YOU NEED SOMEONE TO LOOK AFTER YOU,
...SO I'LL KEEP COMING BY TO GIVE YOU AN ASSIST.
BESIDES EVEN THOUGH I LOST MY POWER, I DON'T WANNA CUT TIES COMPLETELY
IT WOULDN'T BE FUN IF I STOPPED SEEING YOU.
GOT IT?
THAT'S AN UPPER-CLASSMAN ORDER.
EVEN NOW, I OFTEN SEE THAT "BLUE"..

LITTLE GIRL
クローズゲーム
CLOSE GAME

TA TA
TA TA
TA TA
THE SEASON IS FALL. STUDENTS ARE RUNNING HITHER AND YON, SWEATING PROFUSELY. IS IT TRACK AND FIELD DAY?
NO...
YIKES!
WELL, AT THIS SCHOOL, STUDENTS WHO ARE STUDYING TO BE "PROJECTIONISTS" CAN
WHAT IF YOU COULD TAKE ANY IMAGE IN YOUR HEAD AND GIVE IT FORM .?
THE DEADLINE FOR THE THIRD-YEAR SENIOR GRADUATION PROJECTS IS IMMINENT.
WHY NOT?!
I CAN'T?!

AFTER ALL, THE REPUTATION OF THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED AND WE DO HAVE VISITORS.
...BUT THE PRINCIPAL IS OPPOSED TO PROJECTIONS OF GREED
THE PROJECT THEME THIS YEAR IS "DREAMS".
SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH A PROJECTION OF MONEY FALLING FROM THE SKY? THAT'S MY DREAM!
MMM...I LIKE THE IDEA MYSELF...
IT TAKES MONEY TO BE A PROJECTIONIST
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...
I GOTTA DART TO MY PART-TIME JOB!!
SO BOTTOM LINE, TRY TO COME UP WITH A MORE ...ARTISTIC PROJECTION
Sorry
SIGHHH... IMAGES OF MONEY GOT MIXED INTO MY PROJECTIONS AGAIN TODAY...
BUT THAT'S WHY MY DAILY SCHEDULE GOES LIKE, "PROJECTIONS, WORK, PROJECTIONS, WORK"...
I'LL COME BACK AFTER WORK!
KYOYA, WHAT ABOUT PRACTICE?
IT'S AN ELITE OCCUPATION, SO THE COST REFLECTS THAT.
TUITION, MAINTENANCE COSTS AND THE MAGIC LANTERNS ARE ALL INSANELY EXPENSIVE.

...WITHOUT ANYTHING HOLDING ME BACK!
TA TA TA TA TA
Shoot! I'm late!
WHEN I FIRST STARTED HERE, I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO PROJECT ANYTHING...
...BUT THEY'VE GOT SO MANY RESTRICTIONS...
WITH ALL THE MONEY THEY MAKE IN, YOU THINK THEY'D GIVE A GUY SOME LEEWAY...
BUMP
GASP
SIGHHH... JUST ONCE...
AH! A PERSON!
SORRY! YOU'RE SO LITTLE, I DIDN'T SEE YOU.
...I'D LIKE TO PROJECT SOMETHING EXACTLY THE WAY I WANT...
CUT IT OUT! YOU'LL MAKE ME PROJECT DOLLARS FLOATING AROUND!
MONEY! MONEY! ♪
I IMAGINE
THIS IS ONLY A REHEARSAL BUT WOW US, KYOYA!
THAT'S ME!
IMAI-KUN!
NEXT PERSON!

I WAS DISTRACTED FOR A SEC BY SOME WEIRD PROJECTION...
WHAT'S WRONG, RYOYA?
D-DO YOU FEEL SORRY NOW?!
!?
PO
OF
IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT!
I'M...
...NOT LITTLE!

SAY NASTY THINGS LIKE THAT TO PEOPLE, NASTY THINGS WILL HAPPEN TO YOU!
SO I HOPE YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR LESSON AND WATCH WHAT YOU SAY!

AND FROM THEN ON...

YIKES!
WAAA!
AAAH!
MMMMM...
HMMMM
AH, WELL IT'S NO BIG DEAL!
IMAI-SAN!
DID I DO ANYTHING TO HER?
SEEMS LIKE THAT GIRL'S MADE ME HER PERMANENT TARGET..

AKITSU IS TIRED FROM IMAGING ALL DAY, SO HE'S TAKING A NAP ANYWAY.
OH! SORRY, KAWANAMI! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GO OVER TO PICK IT UP
YOUR LANTERN IS READY
YOU'RE REALLY AT HOME AS HIS ASSISTANT
EH? I GUESS...
HUH ...?
SUZUME!
SUZUME? YOU KNOW HER?
SUSHI SUSHI WAVE
HAH? DID YOU DO SOMETHING TO HER, IMAI-SAN?
H-HE SAID I WAS CUTE!!
EEEYAAA!
SHE OFTEN COMES TO AKITSU'S "WORKSHOP" WONDER WHAT SHE'S DOING NOW THOUGH...
SHE'S LOCKED ON TO ME AS HER TARGET IS WHAT

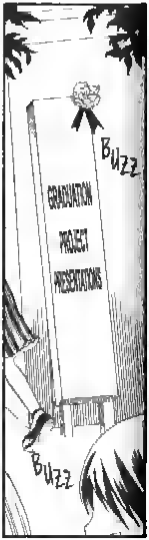
SEE SHE LIKES PROJECTING HUGE LANDSCAPES
SHE SHOWED ME AND IT WAS BREATHTAKING SHE'S VERY TALENTED..
BUT EVERY TIME SHE PROJECTS, OTHER STUDENTS SAY STUFF LIKE..
WHEN IT SEEMED SHE WOULDN'T LET UP I TRIED ASKING HER ABOUT IT DIRECTLY
NOT LONG AGO SHE PLAYED PRANKS ON A LOT OF OTHER STUDENTS WITH HER PROJECTIONS TOO
OH
YOU CAN'T DO THAT, IMAI-SAN SHE'S SENSITIVE ABOUT HER HEIGHT
DID I CALL HER "LITTLE"?
"THAT'S INCREDIBLE! EVEN MORE THAT IT WAS PROJECTED BY SOMEONE SO SHORT!"
"A SHORT GIRL MAKES GIANT THINGS! DO YOU HAVE SIZE ENVY?"
"WOW! A VAST LANDSCAPE LIKE THAT CAME OUT OF A LITTLE GIRL LIKE YOU?!"
IT'S REALLY STRESSING HER OUT.
DOESN'T HELP MUCH, THOUGH SHE S SO SENSITIVE TO WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT HER THAT SHE'S LOST CONTROL OF HER PROJECTIONS.
AT ONE POINT SHE KIND OF "SNAPPED" AND STARTED DISHING OUT WHAT SHE THOUGHT OF AS EQUAL TREATMENT TO PEOPLE WHO BADMOUTHED HER..
I'LL GIVE YOU
PROJECTIONS!

I THINK ALL SHE WANTS TO DO IS PROJECT WITHOUT ANYONE OR ANYTHING GETTING IN HER WAY..
NOTHING GETTING IN HER WAY ...
HUH..
HEY DID YOU JUST HEAR THAT?
YEAH, I HEARD!
YOU DON'T GOTTA BE SCARED OF US!
WE JUST GOT A LITTLE FAVOR TO ASK YOU!
TWITCH
TWITCH
HEY, YOU! I HEARD YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING MIND GAMES WITH IMAI RECENTLY!!
THEN I'VE GOT TO STEP UP MY REVENGE!
HE'S NOT SORRY AT ALL.

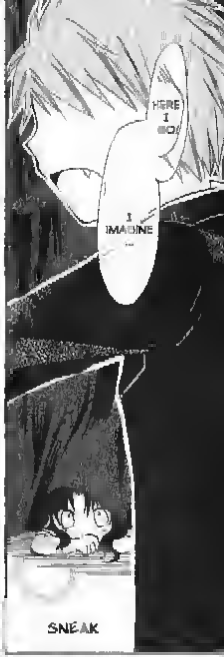
YOU'RE NOT SMALL. NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE ELSE SAYS DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THEM AND CREATE THE BIGGEST PROJECTION YOU CAN IMAGINE!
SO WE WANT YOU TO CRUSH HIM FOR US!
WHAT DO YA SAY?!
THIS TIME AROUND ON THE GRADUATION STAGE, THEY'RE DOING "PROJECTION-OFFS" ...
WE'RE GOING HEAD TO HEAD AGAINST IMAI AND TO BE FRANK, WE DON'T HAVE A CHANCE AT BEATING HIM!

THANKS!
RYOYA IMAI KUN WILL BE FIRST...
GOOD LUCK, RYOYA!

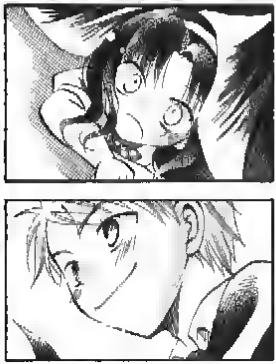
AN ADDITIONAL FIVE POINTS TO TANAKA KUN, MAKING THE GRAND TOTAL 83 POINTS--
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
AND WITH HIS LAST ENTRY!
IMAI KUN VERSUS THE DUO OF IKUKAWA KUN AND NOMIYAMA KUN


BUZZ
GRADUATION PROJECT PRESENTATIONS
BUZZ

...THE SEA!!
FLASH...


HERE I GO!
I IMAGINE
SNEAK

OHHH!
BEAUTIFUL ...!!
I LOVE HOW HE'S GOT LIGHT REFLECTING OFF THE WAVES, CASTING LITTLE RAINBOWS...!!



THE LIGHT KIND OF SHINES LIKE THROUGH A JEWEL THOUGH...
STILL, I'D JUST CALL THAT ONE FLAW IN A BIG DIAMOND!
NOT TOO SHABBY, RYOYA!
OH, AND LOOK! THE SUNSET!!
Hah-hah...
GRRRR
IT GOES OUT AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE!
THIS IS HUGE!
SO DYNAMIC!!
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
HUH?
W-WHAT THE...?! THE SEA SUDDENLY SHRUNK?!
DID HE MEAN TO DO THAT?
FWOOD...
I IMAGINE IT AS BEING SMALL!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?!
AWA AWA AWA
SO THIS IS YOUR DOING! HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?!
POOF
KANSEN: PROJECTIONS OF THE SENSES
HEY, RYOYA! THERE'S THAT GIRL!!
GASP

LET GO...
BAD GIRL! IN ALL MY YEARS HERE, NO ONE HAS EVER DISRUPTED THE GRADUATION PRESENTATIONS LIKE THIS!!
KYAAA!
AND I'VE GOT WORDS WITH YOU TOO, YOUNG LADY!!
YOU TWO HAVE BEEN COASTING FOR THREE YEARS AND NOW YOU HAVE THE TEMERITY TO TRY TO CHEAT YOUR WAY THROUGH THE GRADUATION PROJECT?!
IDIOT! EVERYONE CAN HEAR YOU!
AAAK! STUPID! YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO COME OUT YET!
SO YOU TWO BROUGHT HER IN HERE, EH?
SEE? I CAN BLOW IT RIGHT BACK UP TO SIZE.
NO WORRIES, SIR!
DO OF
KA-CHING
PFF
A WEAK IMAGE LIKE THAT IS NO PROBLEM FOR ME.

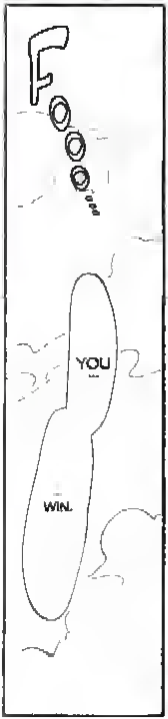
HEH HEH HEH
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S HOW WEAK YOURS WAS!
I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOT NO PROBLEM HERE.
!!!
I IMAGINE A PUDDLE!
NOT THROWING IN THE TOWEL YET, HUH?
FINE. NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU CHANGE IT I CAN PUT IT...
POOF
AH!
BACK?
?!
SNAP
WHA—? MY PROJECTION BOUNCED OFF OF IT?
HMPH!
ONE MORE TIME, I IMAGINE THE SEA!!
RIPPLE
.....
EH?
BOTH OF YOU?
IMAGINE IT ALL YOU WANT! AS LONG AS I'M HERE, IT'LL TURN INTO...
...A PUDDLE!
PLISH

DANG! IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S BETTER AT PROJECTING NATURE! SHE TRUMPS MINE EVERY TIME!
WHUNK
RYOYA, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
FWISH
A SHOWDOWN, IS IT? THEN I'D BETTER CHOOSE AN IRONCLAD IMAGE!
WHY ARE YOU PROVOKING HER?! THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO MAKE THIS INTO A SHOWDOWN!
I IMAGINE
IRONCLAD
A SANDY BEACH!
I TURN YOUR CLOUD INTO PLAIN OLD SMOKE!!
THEN I IMAGINE A CLOUD!!
A JAR OF SAND!
A BOULDER!!
A PEARL!!
BOTH OF YOU STOP!
MONEY?!?
DO
OF
MONEY!!
GREED IS GOOD!!
MY MONEY PROJECTION GOT TURNED DOWN BUT HERE IT CAN SERVE ME WELL!
MONEY?

AHAHA! YOUR POWER'S SO WEAK, YOU BOUNCE RIGHT OFF OF IT!
CLANG
TH-THIS IS NOTHING!
COPYCAT!
NOW WE'RE ON MY PLAYING FIELD!
I IMAGINE GOLD BARS!!
A GOLDEN SPHINX!!
POOF
POOF
POOF
POOF
POOF
POOF
POOF
POOF
AAAH!
YIPE!
.....!
AND I'M NOT DONE BY HALF!
LOOKS LIKE AN OVER-WHELMING VICTORY FOR ME!
THE ONLY WAY TO BEAT ME IN MY WORLD SUZUME-CHAN IS BY BUYING EVERYTHING THAT I CREATE!
AGH
I'M BEING BOMBARDED WITH RICHES!
HO
HO
HO
HO
IF I SOLD ALL OF THIS, I WOULD BE A VERY RICH MAN INDEED!

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO FILL THE WORLD!!
DON'T HOLD BACK NOW.
GIVE ME YOUR BEST SHOT!
THEY'RE NOT SIMPLE LITTLE PROJECTIONS THAT CAN BE PICKED OFF ONE BY ONE.
...BUT OBJETS D'ART THAT ARE BIG AND STURDY ENOUGH TO FILL THE WHOLE WORLD!
ALL RIGHT.
JUST REMEMBER, YOU ASKED FOR IT.

FWOOP


FOOO...
YOU
WIN.

GLITTER
HUFF
HUFF
I CAN'T WIPE OUT...
GLITTER
A WORLD LIKE THIS
GLITTER

HUFF
.....
GASP
SUZUME
YOU'RE AMAZING YOU WERE ABLE TO PROJECT AN IMAGE OF MONEY EVEN STRONGER THAN MINE
WOWIE...

YOU DON'T KNOW?! THIS WAS YOUR FINAL, MAN!
AH, WELL. I'M SURE I PASSED AND THOSE TWO GUYS ARE IN A CONFERENCE WITH THE PRINCIPAL RIGHT NOW
SO I SAY WE CALL WHAT HAPPENED AN "ENCORE" AND ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL.
SHIVER
SHIVER
Phew! Everything's back to normal
What a spectacle!
Smith did begin really!
SO WHAT WAS YOUR CHALLENGE TO HER ABOUT ANYWAY?
SNIF
SNIF
The money you've
MM? I DON'T EVEN KNOW
TWI
MORE IMPORTANTLY
BY THE WAY TODD LAID BACK
THIS GUY..
AND ONE MORE THING..
THAT FELT GREAT!! THANKS FOR MAKING A WORLD OF MONEY!!
RUFFLE
RUFFLE
RUFFLE
RUFFLE
RUFFLE
...THANKS TO YOU, I GOT TO DO WHAT I WANTED BEFORE GRADUATION!!

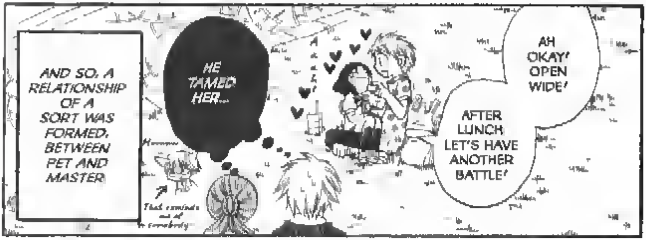
I'M SORRY.
BOW
I'M REALLY SORRY
I DON'T REMEMBER DOING IT BUT I MUST'VE CALLED YOU SMALL BEFORE.
IN MY BOOK, HEIGHT ISN'T MEASURED BY FEET AND INCHES BUT BY HOW MUCH SPIRIT YOU HAVE! IN THOSE TERMS, YOU'RE A GIANTESS!
SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE SAY!
AHAHA
IT MET GOOD UNLEASHING ALL THOSE PREJUDICIONS DIDN'T IT?!
"DON'T HOLD BACK NOW
GIVE ME YOUR BEST SHOT!"
..DID HE GOAD ME
..ON PURPOSE
GIRL, YOU'VE GOT THE GOODS!

I'M THRILLED TO HAVE SOMEONE...
..I DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK AGAINST WHEN IT COMES TO PROJECTING!
SO LET'S HAVE...
ANOTHER SHOWDOWN SOMETIME!

WHY ARE THINGS WORKING OUT LIKE THIS?
WHY—?

RYOYA—
SNUGGLE

EH? LIKE WHAT?


AND SO, A RELATIONSHIP OF A SORT WAS FORMED, BETWEEN PET AND MASTER
HE TAMED HER...
That reminds me of someone
AFTER LUNCH LET'S HAVE ANOTHER BATTLE!
AH OKAY! OPEN WIDE!

ボクの創る世界

THE WORLD I CREATE

AT THIS SCHOOL, STUDENTS WHO ARE STUDYING TO BE "PROJECTIONISTS" CAN.
WHAT IF YOU COULD TAKE ANY IMAGE IN YOUR HEAD AND GIVE IT FORM...?
NO!
DON'T GO, RYOYA!!

YOU'RE CUTE, SHOGO!
LISTEN TO ME!
YOUR CUTE LITTLE BROTHER HATES THE PROJECTION DEPARTMENT!!
Uh-oh! Heh-heh!
RYOYA (BIG BROTHER)
I HATE THE IDEA OF YOU BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL PROJECTIONIST!!
TOO LATE, LITTLE BRO I'VE ALREADY GOT MYSELF A MENTOR.
RYOYA!!
WELL, THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME LEFT BEFORE I GRADUATE, BUT I'D BETTER MAKE THE MOST OF IT!
WHIZZZ
I-IT'LL BE OKAY, SHOGO
SNIFF SNIFF
WE SHOULD GET GOING, TOO.
IT TAKES A FEW MINUTES TO WALK TO THE GENERAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FROM HERE.
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE LATE, DO YOU?
CHIHO!

IF WE RUN, WE CAN STILL CATCH UP WITH HIM! COME ON!"
UH, OKAY.
GRAB

EH?
UM, I'M SORRY...
BUT THE TIME...
DON'T STOP ME, CHIHO! MY BROTHER'S --

...CHIHO, MY BROTHER AND I...
EVER SINCE WE WERE LITTLE
HAVE BEEN CLOSE FRIENDS

EVERY DAY WAS LIKE THAT
...SO I THOUGHT IT WOULD GO ON FOREVER

...AND I COAXED THE SHY CHIHO INTO PLAYING ALONG
RYOYA THOUGHT UP THE IDEAS

YOU WANNA GO OFF TOO, CHIHO?
"NORMAL HUMAN."
I'm gonna become a professional!
Yow! This is more than a human being should be allowed to have!!
BUT THEN MY BROTHER'S POWER MANIFESTED AND JUST LIKE THAT HE WAS OFF TO THE PROJECTION DEPARTMENT.
AS IT TURNS OUT CHIHO HAS THE ABILITY TOO.
OF THE THREE OF US I WAS THE ONLY
EH?
THE PROJECTION DEPARTMENT
OH
I DON'T WANNA BE ALONE.
GRIN
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE, SHOGO
Flow
I WANT TO STAY RIGHT WHERE I AM.

I WANT THE THREE OF US TO BE TOGETHER AGAIN!
I LOVE HER! SHE'S SO CUTE!
GOOD! SHE'S SMILING!
I WANNA GO BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE.
HOD
I DON'T EVEN WANNA BREATHE THE AIR IN HERE..
BUT I GOTTA PERSEVERE!
SOMEHOW OR OTHER, I'LL CONVINCE RYOYA
TA TA TA
I WISH ALL "PROJECTIONS" ...
... WOULD JUST DISAPPEAR!!
PROJECTION DEPARTMENT
FOOO HAAA FOO
HAA FOO HAA
OR WAIT...MAYBE I SHOULD STEAL AS MUCH OF THEIR OXYGEN AS I CAN!!
AH...
WELL...
OKAY
JUST ONE TIME!
OKAY?
M-?

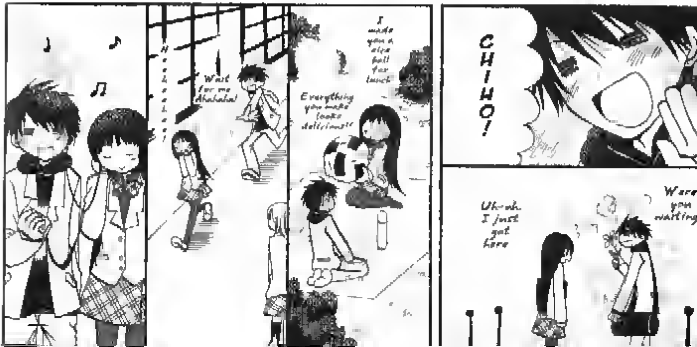
FOO
FOO
FOO
FOOOO
...WHAT IS THIS? A PROJECTION —?
IT'S SO BRIGHT... AND BIG..
WOW...
MARVELOUS! VERY WELL DELINEATED AND THE COLORS ARE VIVID!
AN IMPRESSIVE IMAGE!!
DON'T YOU THINK SO TOO?
BE HONEST!
AH...

YES!
CHIHO?!
!
SHOGO!!
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT ?!

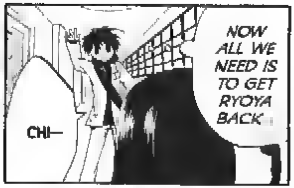
TH-THAT WAS
MY FEELINGS ARE TRUE..
R R R
I LOVE CHIHO
BUT
I-I AM!
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT SAID YOU WERE HAPPY WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE!!
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE HAPPY!!
WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THE PROJECTION DEPARTMENT AND, EVEN WORSE, PROJECTING!!
I-I WAS INVITED BY NAKAHARA-SENSEI AND THEN...
ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS REFUSE!!
..THIS IS THE WORST BETRAYAL!!
IF YOU'RE ONLY FEELING SORRY FOR ME, KNOCK IT OFF!!
YOU WANNA STUDY THERE?! FINE! I'M NOT GONNA STOP YOU!!
SHOGO
I...
I'M NOT GOING
AFTER ALL, I WANT TO BE WITH YOU...

I...
I...
...LOVE YOU, SHOGO.

RECIPROCATED LOVE.


Wait for me Akaba!
I made you a rice ball for lunch.
Everything you make looks delicious!
CHIHO!
Uh-oh. I just got here
Were you waiting

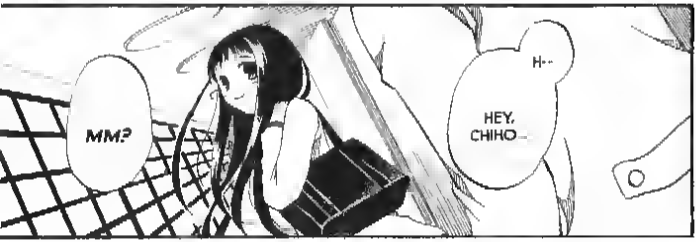
AHHHH!
I DON'T KNOW IF I WOULD'VE HAD THE GUTS TO TELL MY OLD FRIEND I LOVED HER...NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED SHE FELT THE SAME WAY ABOUT ME!
EVERY DAY'S A JOY.
AS KIDS, WHENEVER I INVITED CHIHO TO PLAY...
SHE'D ALWAYS TWITCH
AND GET THIS WORRIED LOOK ON HER FACE...
BUT EVEN THEN, SHE'D TAG ALONG FOR SOME REASON.
JUST LIKE BACK THEN..
...CHIHO'S HERE FOR ME SHE ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE


NOW ALL WE NEED IS TO GET RYOYA BACK.
CHI—

THUMP
CHI—

Should we stop somewhere along the way?
.....

OH, SHOGO. YOU READY?
CHIHO
TA TA


MM?
HEY, CHIHO
H--

NOTHING. LET'S GO HOME

WHAT IS IT?

...ISN'T GONNA LEAVE ME...
IS SHE?
HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, SHOGO?
RYOYA!
I DON'T OFTEN GET TO SEE YOU AROUND HERE.
IS SOMETHING UP?
EH?
THUMP
NO, NOTHING SPECIAL.
SINCE HE WAS A KID I TURNED TO HIS BIG BROTHER IN BAD TIMES
BY THE WAY, WHO'S THAT GIRL?
MM?
YOU MEAN SUZU-ME?
SUZUME
I GUESS YOU COULD CALL HER MY PET
PET -?!
AND SHE SEEMS HAPPY WITH THAT!
SUZUME
WHAT'S GOING ON?
UH NOTHING --
IMAI-SAN!

YEAH THIS IS SOYOKA KAWANAMI SHE'S SECOND YEAR IN THE REGULAR HIGH SCHOOL.
SO YOU BETTER SHOW HER RESPECT
GEN ED... GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM?
I'LL STUDY WHEN I GET HOME
DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU HAVE A QUIZ IN GEN ED TOMORROW? ARE YOU READY FOR IT?
HEY, THANKS! AND PASS IT ON TO AKITSU TOO!
YOUR LANTERN'S ALL CLEAR.
HELLO SHOGO-KUN
I USED TO BE WITH THE PROJECTION DEPARTMENT HERE.
I'M GEN ED NOW, BUT I STILL WANNA BE A PART OF THIS, SO I HELP OUT.
I'M GONNA MAKE A STORE RUN. WHY DON'T YOU STICK AROUND AND TAKE A TOUR?!
He's carrying Lily on his shoulders?!
MM? WHAT? YOU WANNA EAT MANGO ICE CREAM?
RYOYA
SNUGGLE
SNUGGLE

OH, SOYOKA-CHAN!!
YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME HERE!
YOU'RE JUST IN TIME TO SEE RI-CHAN PROJECT!
I was lonely if it was because we weren't getting attention from me!
Is that why you're overworked?
SENSEI, THIS IS IMAI-SAN'S YOUNGER BROTHER.
OH, REALLY?
I REMEMBER YOU FROM BEFORE WHEN CHIHO WAS HERE.
I DON'T REMEMBER THIS PERSON BEING HERE THEN...
EVERYONE EXCEPT CHIHO WAS FILTERED OUT
?
EVERY DAY, SHE'D PEER THROUGH THE WINDOWS, AS IF SHE WANTED TO BE PART OF THIS. ALL I DID WAS ASK HER IN.
AH, HE'S READY TO PROJECT.
LET'S WATCH
.....
EH...? ARE YOU A BOY OR A GIRL?!
"LIKES"...?
YOU'RE THE PROJECTIONIST TEACHER WHO LIKES CHIHO!!

Fooo...
I IMAGINE
THE SKY
FWOOO_
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE FLOATING THROUGH THE SKY.
AND THE AIR TASTES... SWEET? GENTLE?
UNBELIEV ABLE!
WHAT IS IT, HATSUMI?
THIS IS WONDERFUL RITSUKI-KUN! EVEN GENTLER THAN YESTERDAY'S!!

UWAAA!
SITTING HERE AND EXPERIENCING THEIR PROJECTIONS, IT'S OBVIOUS THEY'RE IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER.
THOSE TWO ARE EASY TO "READ", AREN'T THEY?
BUT THEY'RE BOTH SO DENSE THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT THEY BOTH FEEL THE SAME WAY!
CHUCKLE
HE LOVES HER..
BLUSH
EVEN THOUGH PROJECTIONS ...
...REFLECT A PERSON'S HEART

DO PEOPLE HERE FEEL SUPERIOR? DO THEY THINK THEY'RE SOME SPECIAL "CHOSEN ONES"?
I MEAN A POWER THAT REGULAR PEOPLE DON'T HAVE IS IMPRESSIVE ...
BUT IS THAT ALL?
I BET SOME PEOPLE MUST NOT EVEN CARE ABOUT IT, RIGHT?
KAWANAMI-SAN...
WHY IS EVERYONE SO ATTRACTED TO THIS WORLD?
PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE TALENT BUT DON'T FEEL THE SLIGHTEST COMPULSION TO USE IT...
AAAH!
WHAT?
NO! NO!
GASP
IS THIS ABOUT A GIRL?
I HAD THE POWER AND LOST IT...
WHICH IS WHY I MAY FEEL THIS STRONGLY.
BUT I THINK IT'S WONDERFUL TO BE ABLE TO TAKE WHAT YOU'RE FEELING...
...AND SHOW IT TO ANOTHER PERSON IN THE FORM OF A WORLD.

HEY, YUZURU AND NAKAHARA! THIS IS IMAI-SAN'S LITTLE BROTHER!
WOW! HELLO! WE WERE WATCHING YOUR PROJECTION
YOU'VE GOTTEN TONS BETTER THAN THE LAST TIME I SAW ONE OF YOURS!
SOYOKA-CHAN!
SHOW SOMEONE WHAT YOU'RE FEELING...
YEAH!
IT WAS WONDERFUL...
WASN'T IT BEAUTIFUL?
SHE LOOKS SO HAPPY...
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT? IT'S LIKE THEY SPEAK TO YOUR HEART OR MAKE YOU FEEL WHAT THEY'RE FEELING...
I KNOW RIGHT?! KITSUKE-KUN'S PROJECTIONS ARE BEAUTIFUL!!
HEHEHE
Hahaha
WHAT DO YOU THINK, IMAI-SAN'S LITTLE BROTHER?

YES
=.

...
IT
WAS.

I HATE PROJECTIONISTS— BECAUSE THEY STEAL EVERYTHING—

.. IMPORTANT FROM ME AND BECAUSE .

—I CAN'T BE PART OF THEIR WORLD

I WANNA DO SOMETHING ...
... FOR CHIHO.
"I'M NOT ...
... GOING ANYWHERE, SHOGO."

I-I MEAN
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
CHIHO
IF YOU WANNA JOIN THE PROJECTION DEPARTMENT I GUESS IT'D BE OKAY WITH ME
...EH?
EVEN NOW, YOU'RE HOLDING BACK FOR MY SAKE, AREN'T YOU?
BUT I'M FINE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT
THIS IS WHAT SHE WANTS, ISN'T IT?
IT'S WHAT THAT TEACHER SAID...
AND I SAW WITH MY OWN EYES HOW HAPPY SHE LOOKED THEN
I...
I NEVER SAID I WANT TO GO THERE.

I'M NOT, ESPECIALLY ...LOOK, SHOGO CAN WE JUST DROP IT...?
YOU'D WATCH THE PROJECTIONS YOU LOOKED HAPPY WHEN YOU MADE YOUR OWN.
ADMIT IT! YOU'RE ATTRACTED TO THAT WORLD
CHIHO!

NOT IN SO MANY WORDS, CHIHO, BUT IT WAS WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE.
IT WAS NOT!
EVEN THE TEACHER SAID HOW YOU'D LOOK IN THE WINDOW EVERY DAY..

I WISH YOU WOULD TELL ME...
HOW COULD I...

I GUESS I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, CHIHO...

WHAT, DON'T YOU WANNA GO? WAS I WRONG?
WHY ...?
...I FEEL'S LIKE MY HEAD'S IN A FOG.

WHAT ARE YOU BEING SO STUBBORN ABOUT?
I TELL YOU, I'M FINE WITH IT! YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK ON MY ACCOUNT ANYMORE!
WHY ARE YOU SO GUNG HO ABOUT IT ALL OF A SUDDEN, SHOGO?

...WANT TO JOIN...
...THE PROJECTION DEPARTMENT WHEN YOU HATE IT?!
JUST BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE THE PLACE THAT DOESN'T HAVE TO BOTHER YOU!
BUT IT DOES BOTHER ME!
I DON'T WANT TO GO ANY PLACE THAT YOU HATE, SHOGO!
BUT I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S OKAY WITH ME!!
I'M SO INSECURE
I KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU...
BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FEEL!

I DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING...
...THAT WOULD MAKE YOU HATE ME...
...OR SPLIT US UP!
THAT'S OKAY, THOUGH.
I JUST WANT TO BE BY YOUR SIDE!
SO, PLEASE...
...DON'T SAY THAT!

TATA
DID I EVER ACTUALLY TELL CHIHO THAT I LOVED HER?
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'VE BEEN SO PREOCCUPIED WITH MY ISSUES...
I WAS ONLY RECOMMENDING SHE GO TO THE SCHOOL...
BECAUSE I LOVE HER, BUT SHE DOESN'T KNOW THAT!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME ...?!
IF I COULD ONLY PROJECT LIKE THEM...
..I WOULD SHOW HER HOW I FEEL
...AND IT WOULD GET ACROSS, WOULDN'T IT?
SIMPLY, DECIDEDLY

CHI-HO!!
FOOO
BUT I CAN'T DO THAT STUFF!!
GRIT

I'M THE REASON SHE FEELS INSECURE.. AND WHY SHE'S CRYING..
YOU GOTTA LET IT OUT
JUST THINKING IT DOESN'T DO ANY GOOD.
SO I GOTTA USE ANOTHER WAY
I DON'T HAVE THE POWER OF PROJECTION
I CAN USE ALL THREE...
THROUGH WORDS
THROUGH PASSION
THROUGH MOOD
...TO LET...
...CHIHO KNOW...

...
HOW
I
FEEL.

CHIHO
SHO
YOU'RE PRECIOUS TO ME
..SO I DON'T WANNA BE A BURDEN WHEN THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANNA DO
I'D NEVER HATE YOU FOR DOING SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO DO
AND WE COULD STILL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER
I'M SORRY
I'M LATE IN SAYING THIS BUT..
CHIHO, I LOVE YOU.

OW
OWWWWWWWW...
THEY KNOCKED THEIR TEETH TOGETHER A FEW PAGES AGO-
IT'S KIND OF LIKE A PROJECTION.
EH?
THRO
THROB
I'm feeling it, too...
I GUESS I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS ROMANCE STUFF..
AHAHAHA!
POINT LAUGH

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS.
EVEN WITHOUT POWERS, YOU CAN MAKE MY HEART GO PITTER-PAT OR MAKE ME FEEL LIKE I'M FLOATING ON AIR.
YOU SHOW ME ALL KINDS OF WORLDS.
AND I'VE ALWAYS WISHED ...
...I COULD DO THE SAME FOR YOU...
...
SHOGO.

I WANT YOU TO WATCH.
...ALL OF THE WORLDS THAT I CREATE.
WOW! CHIHO-CHAN, THAT LOOKS PERFECT ON YOU!!

IF YOU EVER HAVE ANY TROUBLES DON'T HESITATE TO USE MY OLD MAN
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D THINK YOU'D BEEN HERE A LONG TIME.
"LIKE IT! THAT'S A TERRIBLE WAY TO TALK ABOUT YOUR FATHER, RI-CHAN!!
AS YOU'RE GETTING USED TO YOUR MAGIC LANTERN, AKITSU CAN GIVE YOU SOME TIPS ON HOW TO FINE-TUNE IT
THANK YOU, EVERYONE
GREAT!
I'M GLAD THEY'RE ALL SUCH NICE PEOPLE!
I WILL!
KEEP AN EYE ON HER, RYOYA.
A-ALSO ...
DON'T WORRY! REMEMBER, I'M AROUND, TOO!
NERVOUS SHOGO?
AH
YEAH.

I STILL CAN'T CHEER YOU ON FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART
...BUT I'VE DECIDE TO STOP WITH THE NEGATIVITY.
SQUEEZE
YOU TOO, RYOYA.
GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR APPREN-TICESHIP
SHOGO!
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY ON TIME? THE WINDOW'S GOING TO CLOSE SOON.
FWAP!
YOU'RE RIGHT! LET'S GET YOU REGISTERED, CHIHO-CHAN!
O-OKAY!

I'LL SEE YOU AFTER SCHOOL!
SEE YOU THEN!
I WANT TO DO SOMETHING FOR SOMEONE.

.. CAN HURT PEOPLE. I'M WORRIED THAT IT CAN LEAD TO BECOMING SELF-SATISFIED.
GIVING FORM TO THOUGHTS
THE WIND BLOWS
THE SCENERY CHANGES.
BUT IT'S NOT ALL SCARY STUFF.
YOU SHOW ME MANY DIFFERENT WORLDS
I'M SURE

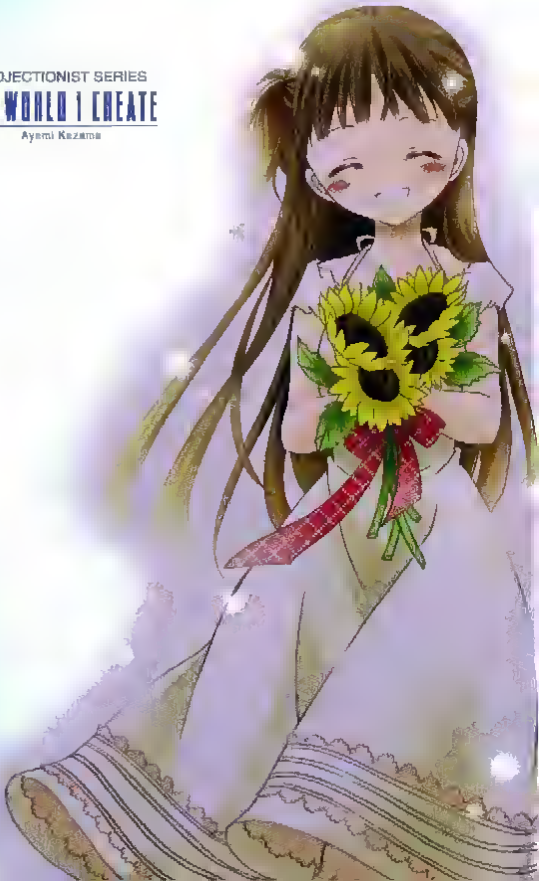
...
THAT'S A "PROJECTION"
...
...
ANYONE CAN MAKE.

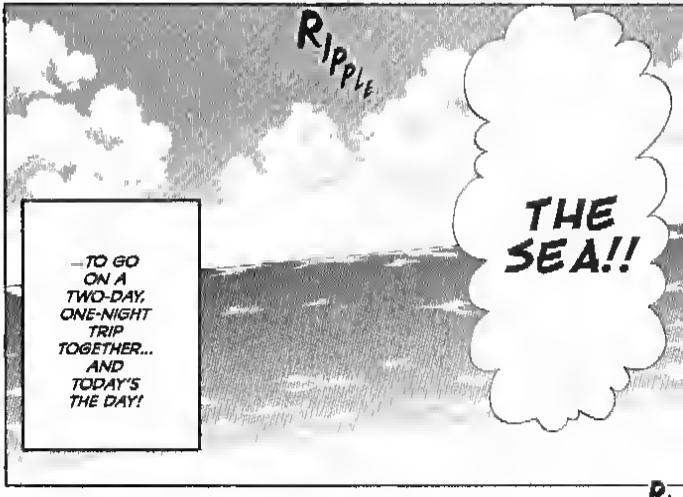
I REALLY
LIKED THESE
TWO.(LOL)

PROJECTIONIST SERIES

THE WORLD I CREATE

Ayami Kazama





BONUS MANGA

SUMMER VACATION

RIPPLE

I CAN'T WAIT, CAN YOU, SUZUME-CHAN?
LET'S HURRY UP AND SWIM, RITSUKI-KUN!
TUG
Okay okay
TUG
KYAAA! THIS FEELS GREAT!!
YOU TWO'VE BECOME FAST FRIENDS
WELL, WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS!
BUT SHOULDN'T ONE PERSON STAY HERE TO WATCH OUR STUFF?
AH! I'LL DO IT!
RYOYA, AREN'T YOU GONNA GO IN THE WATER?
NAH. MY MENTOR'S SO STRICT, I HAD TO STAY UP THE PAST THREE NIGHTS PRACTICING I'M DONE IN!
I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON OUR THINGS WHILE I TAKE A NAP!
NOT WORTH THE TROUBLE OF SAYING IT.
THAT'S NONSENSE!
Dot dot dot

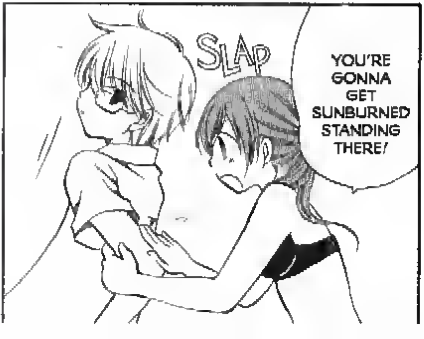
NOD
NOD

I'M SORRY I CAN'T SWIM WITH YOU, CHIHO.
ME TOO. OH, WELL, LATER, I'LL BUY YOU SHAVED ICE. WHAT FLAVOR DO YOU LIKE?
MANGO.
...IF THEY HAVE IT.

SUZUME? ARE YOU SURE?
THEN I'LL STAY BEHIND, TOO
AS LONG AS I'M WITH RYOYA, I'LL BE FINE!

SPLASH

AKITSU!
BEAUTIFUL BLUE... CLEAR, SLIGHTLY MELANCHOLIC..


SLAP
YOU'RE GONNA GET SUNBURNED STANDING THERE!

.....
RIPPLE...

THAT'S OKAY!
NEVER MIND ME!
WHY?
I'LL DO IT MYSELF.
I'LL PUT LOTION ON CHIHO
I'M FINE, I SAID!

AH!
YOU TOO, SOYOKA-SAN.
SLAP

I CAN'T!
WHAT'S WRONG, SHOGO?
I CAN'T!
I CAN'T!
Let's make a toad turtle!

TOUCH
GASP

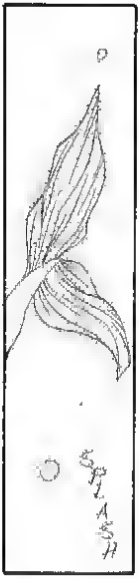
YEAH.
That tickles!
IT FEELS FUNNY WHEN THE SAND GETS WASHED OUT BY THE WATER, DOESN'T IT?

WAAAA!
FSSSSSH

HATSUMI, LOOK IN THE WATER.
EH?

I JUST WISH THERE WERE FISH SWIMMING AROUND HERE!
.....

SPLASH
SPLASH
SPL


SPLASH

I IMAGINE
.....

THAT WAS FANTASTIC, RITSUKI-KUN!
UH-
I BET NAKAHARA PRACTICED THAT PROJECTION BEFOREHAND -
HE PROBABLY PLANNED THAT BEFORE WE GOT HERE.
That's cute
LET'S AIM FOR A SANDY VERSION OF VERSAILLES!!
OKAY!
LET'S YOU AND ME MAKE SOMETHING IMPRESSIVE TOO, CHIHO!
Uh... VERSAILLES?
.....
FOOOP...
.....

FWISH
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
SWEAT...
MMM...
MM
HAHHH
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP

No fair! You got to have a piggy ride the whole time!
This feels good
Nooo quit that!
Go ahead!
Ready?
Z
Z
Z
One tunnel's connected!!

EH?
AH LOOK...

I GOT PLENTY OF SLEEP
I'M TIRED OUT
IS EVERYBODY ABOUT READY TO CALL IT A DAY?

OHHH!
THE SETTING SUN IS BEAUTIFUL!
IT'S SO BIG!
LOOKING AT THIS MAKES ME THINK...
I KNOW NO MATTER HOW GREAT OUR PROJECTIONS ARE, THEY JUST DON'T COMPARE TO THE REAL THING.
I WANT MY PROJECTION TO BE CLOSER TO THIS!

HAHAHA
With just us here it feels a friendly mood...
I'll take that light...
HAHA
My color sense was tighter than this...
HAHA

SQUEEZE

LET'S COME BACK AGAIN SOMETIME.

BUT I'M SURE...
WE WILL BE BACK
HEY, IT'S TIME FOR DINNER, GUYS! LET'S GET BACK TO THE INN!
ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT CRAB!
PILLOW FIGHT!
I WOULDN'T MIND JUST THE TWO OF US NEXT TIME...
GNNGH...
I DON'T KNOW IF WE'D BE ALLOWED TO WITHOUT A CHAPERONE...

THANK YOU FOR GETTING "THE WORLD I CREATE." I'M AYAMI KAZAMA. I WAS SOOO, SOOO HAPPY TO HAVE MY STORIES COLLECTED INTO ONE VOLUME LIKE THIS. I WAS NERVOUS AT FIRST TO DO THIS SERIES, BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD A CONTINUING STORY, BUT MY STRONGEST FEELING WHILE DOING IT WAS, "THIS IS FUN!"(LOL) THE BONUS STORY FEATURED THE YOUNG PROJECTIONISTS IN THE SUMMER, A SEASON I DIDN'T COVER WITHIN THE ACTUAL SERIES. I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THAT, TOO.

AGAIN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!

SEPTEMBER 2007

AYAMI KAZAMA

SPECIAL THANKS TO-

IKEJIMA-SAN, MY LITTLE SISTER, SAKI-CHAN, ASA-CHAN, ASAKI-SAN, ISHIKURA-SAN, KOZAWA-SAN, TAKKI-SAN, MY FAMILY MY FRIENDS, MY ACQUAINTANCES, AND EVERYONE WHO HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS SERIES...♥